



ADVISOR



TEACHERS, EMPLOYEES, PUBLIC, STATE POLICE AND JUDICIAL

Vol. XXXIII — No. 11

SERVING OVER 320,000 MEMBERS

May 2008

RTJ UPDATE

#1 Value For The Money



It is always interesting to see where visitors to the RTJ Golf Trail are coming from.

RTJ sales by state exceeded \$2.3 million in April. The top 10 states in order are: Illinois, Texas, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, California, and Wisconsin!

Tourism is approaching a \$9 billion per year industry, which is almost double farming and second only to forestry. When you see a tourist, please make that tourist feel as we do – that there is not a better place to be in the world than Alabama.

Golf Digest

2008 Travel & Destination Study — Top 10 U.S. Destinations

Report Card "Value for the Money"

	2007 Rank	2004 Rank
RTJ, AL	1	2
Myrtle Beach, SC	2	1
Gulf Shores, AL	3	4
Northern Michigan	4	3
Northern Carolina Mts.	5	6
Mississippi Gulf Coast, MS	6	9
San Antonio, TX	7	*
Pinehurst, NC	8	*
Tuscon, AZ	9	*
Williamsburg, VA	10	*

* not in top 10

Report Card "Golf Quality"

	2007 Rank	2004 Rank
Pinehurst, NC	1	3
Kohler, WI	2	1
Monterey Peninsula, CA	3	2
Hilton Head, SC	4	5
Hawaii	5	4
Scottsdale/Phoenix, AZ	6	8
Charleston/Kiawah, SC	7	*
Palm Springs, CA	8	NM
RTJ, AL	9	6
Myrtle Beach, SC	10	9

* not in top 10

The Food Problem

Editorial

The *Wall Street Journal* recently pointed out that food costs have increased by 83% over the last three years. Even more shocking is that rice, a staple for much of the world, has increased 147% in the last year!

The *New York Times* editorial points out that the president of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, says that 33 nations are at risk of social unrest because of the rising price of food.

Even the poorest 20% of households in the U.S. spend only 16% of their budget on food. Nigerian families spend 73% of their budget, while Vietnamese spend 65%, and Indonesians spend 50% to eat.

Rising food prices (the price of corn doubled in the last two years, and wheat is at its highest price in 28 years) provide a very good argument for nixing ethanol's support. ■

Legislative Update

Lindy Beale, Legislative Counsel



Once again the legislative process has slowed due to several different issues affecting the Senate, resulting in very little legislation being passed. Although not in final form, the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 is approximately \$2 billion. However, it is problematic because it is comprised of almost 18 per-

cent of conditional appropriations for most agencies based upon the availability of revenue.

Legislation granting retirees of the Employees' Retirement System a COLA of \$1 per month of service is also making its way through the legislature. Under this legislation, the retiree must have retired prior to October 1, 2008. The one-time payment will be mailed out in

December 2008. Any local unit that participates in the ERS would have to pass a resolution adopting the COLA while also agreeing to fund it.

The Education Trust Fund Budget, while in much better shape than the General Fund Budget, is still experiencing cuts in spending. However, at this time, the budget has the Teachers' Retirement System funded at the requested rate. ■

Prison Girls and Women

Source: PARCA

The Commission on Girls and Women in the Criminal Justice System has issued a report addressing gender disparities in the criminal system. The Commission found that a vast majority of women and girls behind bars in Alabama are there for nonviolent offenses and would be better served in community-based rehabilitation programs.

The report—*One Size Does Not Fit All: Research and Recommendations for Gender-Responsiveness in Alabama's Criminal Justice System*—is the state's first blueprint for comprehensive reform in the treatment, rehabilitation and incarceration of women and girls in Alabama. The report found that a significant sentencing disparity exists between men and women, with 71 percent of the women in Alabama's prisons there for nonviolent crimes, compared to 52 percent of male inmates, according to Alabama Department of Corrections data.

The findings are also stark for girls, with only 5.5 percent of girls in the custody of the Department of Youth Services serving time for violent offenses, accord-

ing to records for January 2006 through April 2007. Sixty-three percent of girls in DYS custody were technical or status offenders serving time for offenses such as truancy. Legislation, such as the Juvenile Justice Act, has garnered support among advocates and others in the justice system as a way to significantly reform the system to one that rehabilitates.

"The Juvenile Justice Act will help ensure that these troubled girls get the help they need," said Alabama Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb. Adolescent girls in the juvenile justice system tend to have a history of physical or sexual abuse and have a higher incidence of mental health disorders and learning disabilities than boys in the system, the Commission found. Similarly, women offenders are more likely to have histories of mental illness and physical and sexual abuse. They also have different motivations for breaking the law, including the need to provide for their families, substance abuse and intimate relationships that expose them to the criminal justice system.

The Commission found that most women and girls in the criminal justice

SNAPSHOT

Alabama Girls in DYS Custody

Number of female cases entering DYS from 1/1/06 – 4/30/07: 1,086

➤ Average Age:	15 years old
➤ Race:	52% Black 47% White 1% Other
➤ Average grade completed upon adjudication:	8th Grade
➤ Live in female-only households:	63%
➤ Reported possible substance abuse:	50%

Source: Alabama Department of Youth Services

system would be better served through community programs focused on mental health, substance abuse treatment, family assistance and other services that address the issues that pushed them into the justice system. Expanding these services and "community corrections" programs into every county has the potential to save Alabama millions in tax dollars, money currently spent for beds in the aging, high-security Julia Tutwiler prison. A system with a smaller high-security prison and several low- to medium-security facilities would provide public safety at lower costs. The full report is available at parca.samford.edu/commisison/report2008.pdf. ■

Wow—What An Opportunity

Source: ASMS

The Alabama School of Mathematics and Science is a hub for academic excellence. Located in Mobile, ASMS is our state's only fully residential, public high school for highly motivated sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Admission is selective and students pay no tuition or boarding fees.

This past school year has been particularly productive for ASMS. Students Whitney Woodruff and Terrica Kirk each earned Bill Gates Millennium Scholarships, which will pay for all of their undergraduate and post-graduate studies at the schools of their choice. Mike Zhang was honored as the only Alabama 2008 Intel Science Talent Search semifinalist for his cancer cell research. And a team of ASMS students designed and built an environmentally friendly kitchen and showcased it at Alabama's Green Coast 2008 conference.

In addition to the rigorous math and science courses offered, ASMS students benefit from a comprehensive humanities curriculum. Last November the school opened an art gallery that hosts academically oriented exhibits. In fact, the current exhibit features computer-generated graphics that were designed by students.

ASMS is proud of the fact that 100 percent of its graduates matriculate to college and 60 percent of these students pursue fields relating to math and science. Students are taught by an experienced and knowledgeable faculty—60 percent hold doctoral degrees. Throughout the school's history, ASMS has enrolled a student from every county. The Office of Admissions is always on the lookout for qualified students and can be reached at 800-897-ASMS or online at www.asms.net. ■

ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

Telephone – (334) 242-5718 or
800-214-2158, ext. 1503

Or Write* – RSA Annual Report

P.O. Box 302150

Montgomery, AL 36130-2150

*Include your Name/Address and Zip Code

RSA Movie Theater Investment

The RSA has a unique opportunity to partner with some of the world's top entertainment companies. Village Roadshow (www.village.com.au), an Australian Company (theme parks, 60 movies since 1999, etc.) much like Disney only larger, has partnered with Act III (music); Norman Lear, creator of *All in the Family*; and the RSA to build up to 30 luxury theaters across America.

The concept is high-class dining with wine, steaks, etc., prepared by the theater's chef, followed by a top film in three to five theaters that only seat 20-40 people each in a luxurious atmosphere. Village Roadshow has been very successful with this concept in Australia.

At each approximately \$5 million site, 20% of the funding will be by Village Roadshow with the RSA funding the remaining 80%, as well as being collateralized by the entire project for its eight-year term. The total RSA investment will be \$120 million if all 30 theaters are built. RSA will receive a 10.5% return, plus 20% of any upside value in a sale, merger, etc.

In addition, the RSA will have up to one minute of Alabama related video time prior to each movie, with no other commercial ads, to show off the RTJ Trail, RSA hotels, spas and other Alabama tourist attractions to young professionals. The first theater will open this fall in one of Chicago's wealthiest suburbs. ■

Direct Deposit

IS IT FOR YOU?

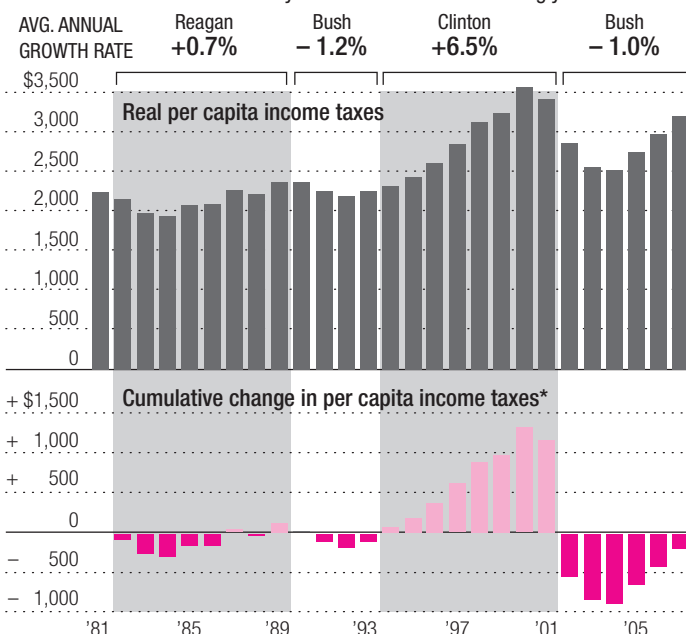
Has your retirement check ever been lost, stolen or misplaced in the mail? Do you plan vacations and holidays around the arrival of your benefit check? Have you ever been too ill to take your check to the bank? Would you like to help RSA save on unnecessary postage?

If the answer is yes, you should consider Direct Deposit of your retirement benefit. Direct Deposit is a safe, convenient and cost effective method of electronically depositing your retirement benefit directly to your account on the last business day of the month, instead of waiting for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver your check.

Join over 85,000 RSA retirees who currently enjoy the security and convenience of Direct Deposit by contacting the RSA at 800-214-2158 or downloading the Direct Deposit Authorization form from our Web site at www.rsa.state.al.us. Once you and your bank or financial institution complete the form and return it to RSA (no faxed copies, please), you can enjoy your retirement more than ever. If you already use Direct Deposit, no action is necessary, unless you are changing financial institutions. ■

Myths About Tax Cuts And the Economy Tale of the Tax Cuts

Presidents Reagan and George W. Bush cut taxes, enjoyed an economic expansion after an early recession, but left income tax revenues per person essentially where they were when they took office. President Clinton raised taxes and saw both the economy and tax revenues rise strongly.



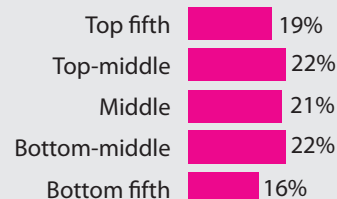
Source: Office of Management and Budget

"The Why" of College Education Upward Movement

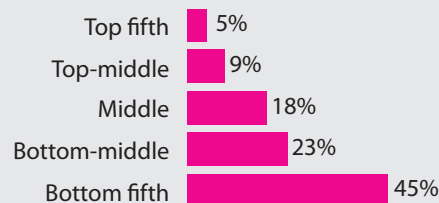
A person born into a poor family who graduates from college has a 19 percent chance of entering the top fifth of earners in adulthood.

How people fared whose parents were in the bottom fifth of income.

Income of those who **earned** college degrees:



Income of those who **did not** earn college degrees:



Source: Economic Mobility Project, Pew Charitable Trusts

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER
A Special Deal
FOR RSA MEMBERS

The Battle House,

A Renaissance Hotel – Mobile – \$79

- May 2–4, 9–11, 16–18, 23–25, 30–31
- June 1, 6–7, 13–15, 27–29 • July 4–7, 11–12

The Renaissance Riverview Plaza

Mobile – \$69

- May 4–7, 16–18, 30–31 • June 1, 13–14
- July 2–3, 27–28, 31

Marriott Grand – \$79

- May 1, 7–8, 18–21, 26–29
- June 4–5, 18 • July 2, 6–7, 23, 30–31

Marriott Grand – RSA Golf Package – \$159

Ask for code – LOCD

Includes: Deluxe Room, One Round of Golf for Two People.

Call for Tee Times after booking package

- May 7–8, 18–21, 26–29 • June 4–5, 18
- July 2, 6–7, 23, 30–31

Marriott Shoals – Florence – \$69

- May 5–6, 18–20, 26 • June 8–9, 22–25, 29–30
- July 6–8, 13–14, 20, 27

Renaissance Ross Bridge – Hoover – \$79

- May 11, 26–29 • June 1–3, 24, 29–30
- July 1, 6, 13, 20, 27

Opelika Marriott – \$69

- May 1, 3–5, 11, 19, 21–31
- June 8–9, 12, 15–16, 22–26, 29–30
- July 1–10, 13–17, 20–23, 27–31

Prattville Marriott – \$69

- May 4, 9–11, 15–18, 22–26, 30–31
- June 1, 4, 7–10, 14–17, 19, 21–23, 29–30
- July 1–17, 20, 30–31

Renaissance Montgomery – \$79

- May 8–11, 24–30 • June 9, 21–22, 25–30
- July 1–5, 11–17, 19, 30–31

RSA Spa Package – \$149 NEW

Ask for code – LOCD Includes Deluxe Room

- May 11, 25–27 • June 9, 22, 29–30 • July 13–15

*Book early because the rooms are limited at these special rates.
These rates are not applicable to groups or conventions.*

Code: RABM, 800-228-9290



RENAISSANCE.
ROSS BRIDGE
GOLF RESORT & SPA

The Pros are Coming to Ross Bridge May 13–18

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Ross Bridge is proud to host the premier event on the PGA Champions Tour, the Regions Charity Classic presented by Bruno's Supermarkets. This professional golf event draws more than 100,000 spectators each year and has contributed more than \$10 million to charity in 16 years.

Truly, they are in for a real treat. Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa was a favorite for players and their families last year, boasting a premier golf course designed for PGA tournament play and a luxury resort setting. Ross Bridge features 259 balconied rooms, ten suites, 20,000 square feet of meeting space and a 12,000 square foot spa.

The Trail is very excited to showcase the beauty and challenge of the world's third longest golf course during that weekend to more than 70 million households across America courtesy of the Golf Channel. We hope you will join us at this charitable event May 13–18 at Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. A limited number of guest rooms may be available at the resort during the tournament. ■



**The
ADVISOR**

CEO

David G. Bronner

Deputy

Marc Reynolds

Executives

Communications

Michael E. Pegues

Chief Accountant & Financial Officer

Norman D. Turnipseed

Employees' and Judicial Retirement

Don Nelson

Field Services

Judy P. Utley

Information Technology Services

Michael T. Baker

Investments

Marc Green

Legal

William T. Stephens

William F. Kelley, Jr.

Legislative Counsel

Lindy J. Beale

RSA-1

Teresa Pettus

Teachers' Health Insurance

Lee Hayes

Teachers' Retirement

Donald L. Yancey

The Retirement Systems of Alabama

135 South Union Street

P.O. Box 302150

Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2150

Phone: 334/832-4140

1-800-214-2158

RSA Web site:

<http://www.rsa.state.al.us>

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MONTGOMERY, AL
PERMIT NO. 402

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS OF ALABAMA
135 SOUTH UNION
P.O. BOX 302150
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-2150

Report — Street Lights that are Out — to the Power Company!
Report — Weedy Lots — to the Mayor!